Society & Social Justice · GS - II

The increase in public healthcare expenditure is essential but not sufficient to ensure universal health coverage in India. Examine the statement with reference to healthcare accessibility, affordability and quality.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Public health financing, universal health coverage, out-of-pocket expenditure, Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, primary healthcare, health infrastructure, human resources, regional inequalities, preventive healthcare, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's rising public healthcare expenditure reflects greater policy attention towards strengthening the health system. However, higher spending must translate into accessible, affordable and quality healthcare.

Significance of Increased Expenditure

Greater public investment can strengthen hospitals, primary healthcare centres, medical education and disease surveillance. Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat–PM-JAY provide financial protection against hospitalisation, while Health and Wellness Centres promote comprehensive primary healthcare. Increased funding can also reduce out-of-pocket expenditure and improve pandemic preparedness.

Persistent Challenges

Unequal distribution of doctors and facilities, rural-urban disparities, inadequate infrastructure and high medicine costs continue to restrict access. Weak implementation and limited preventive healthcare further affect outcomes.

Way Forward

India must improve public health spending efficiency, strengthen primary healthcare, expand human resources, promote preventive services and ensure transparent monitoring of healthcare outcomes.

Conclusion

Universal health coverage requires not merely higher expenditure but equitable allocation, effective implementation and quality public healthcare services.